



PATENT  
Docket No. 223002010004

<p align="center"><b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "FIRST CLASS MAIL"</b></p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on July 20 2001.</p> <p align="center"><i>Laura Shires</i> Laura Shires</p>
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H.G.J  
4/17/02

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**RECEIVED**

In the application of:

Michael HOUGHTON et al.

Serial No.: 09/884,455

Filing Date: June 18, 2001

For: HEPATITIS C VIRUS PROTEASE

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: 1652

JUL 31 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/290

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination on the merits in the subject application, please enter the following preliminary amendment.

**AMENDMENTS**

**In the Claims:**

~~Please cancel claims 1-26.~~

Please add new claims 27-36.

27. (New) A composition comprising a purified proteolytic hepatitis C virus (HCV) polypeptide wherein said HCV polypeptide comprises an HCV NS3 domain protease or an active HCV NS3 domain protease truncation analog.